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There is a singular lack of these *personalia* about more distinguished men with whom Mr. Roosevelt came into such intimate contact at one time and another. Of John Hay, for example, it is only said: "John Hay was one of the most delightful of companions, one of the most charming of all men of cultivation and action." Surely Mr. Roosevelt must have half a hundred or more good John Hay stories to tell.

The chapter on Outdoors and Indoors, showing, as it does, Mr. Roosevelt as a lover of children and of nature, is quite the most charming and delightful chapter in the book. Every page of it offers tempting quotations. Mr. Roosevelt writes about birds with the true feeling of an ornithologist; not as a scientific man, but as a bird lover and a close observer. It is amazing how he could have discovered so much about them when his defective eyesight is considered. In this chapter Mr. Roosevelt tells something of the books he has read and the books he likes, an amazing range, and revealing unsuspected verdicts: "I happen to be devoted to Macbeth, whereas I seldom read Hamlet (though I like parts of it)." He confesses to being "very fond of simple epics and of ballad poetry", but does not "care to read dramas as a rule; I cannot read them with enjoyment unless they appeal to me very strongly". But "children are better than books". And again: "There are many kinds of success in life worth working for. It is exceedingly interesting and attractive to be a successful business man, a railroad man, a farmer, or a successful lawyer or doctor; or a writer, or a President, or a ranchman, or a colonel of a fighting regiment, or to kill grizzly bears and lions. But for unflagging interest and enjoyment, a household of children, if things go reasonably well, certainly makes all forms of success and achievement lose their importance by comparison." That is much better stuff than Mr. Roosevelt's four-thousand-word letter to Attorney General Bonaparte, and is genuine autobiography, which a good part of the book is not. It is these personal and intimate chapters that give the present volume its value, rather than Mr. Roosevelt's controversial treatment of past or present public questions.

*Kentucky in American Letters, 1784-1912.* By JOHN WILSON TOWNSEND. With an Introduction by James Lane Allen. In two volumes. (Cedar Rapids, Iowa: The Torch Press. 1913. Pp. xxxi, 368; xii, 394.)

MR. TOWNSEND is well fitted in point of patience and accuracy to perform the rather formidable task of assembling and introducing the nearly two hundred authors here represented, and of permitting the reader a taste of the quality of each. Not all of the two hundred, indeed, can fairly be called Kentuckians: out of a group of sixty of the better writers we find only thirty-seven who were born in Kentucky, while several of the remaining twenty-three stayed there too short a time for social naturalization. Specific instances of Mr. Townsend's amiable concessiveness in this respect, despite the rigidity of his plan

as set forth in the preface, may be found in the case of Will Levington Comfort, who was born in Michigan in 1878, lives there now, saw Kentucky as a reporter for a few weeks during 1898, for some months during 1911 (when he was seeking local color for *She Buildeth Her House*) and has since then made occasional horseback trips through the state; and in the case of Charles Hanson Towne, who, although born in Louisville, left Kentucky before he was five years old, to live thereafter in New York.

An examination of the roster proper shows Kentucky to have produced or attracted such local and provincial poets as Thomas Johnson, "the Drunken Poet of Danville"; Robert Morris, the Masonic bard; John M. Harney; Hew Ainslie; Fortunatus Cosby, jr.; George D. Prentice; William F. Marvin; Thomas H. Chivers; Henry T. Stanton; James H. Mulligan; Stephen C. Foster; Robert B. Wilson; John Patterson; Laura S. Portor; Margaret S. Anderson; and Joseph S. Cotter, the negro writer. The superior artists in verse, who have a touch or more of universality in their work, are Theodore O'Hara, Sarah M. Piatt, Daniel Henry Holmes, and Julia S. Dinsmore (these two being especially worthy, alike in craftsmanship and insight), and, finally, Madison Cawein, the truest lyrist in Kentucky's history.

Among the historians may be mentioned such names as those of Mann Butler, the Collinses, father and son, Zachariah F. Smith, and Robert M. McElroy. The chief orators are Henry Clay, Richard H. Menefee, and Thomas F. Marshall. The statesmen include Clay, Jefferson Davis, Zachary Taylor, John C. Breckinridge, George G. Vest, and Oscar W. Underwood.

In fiction we should select the names of Gilbert Imlay, Catherine A. Warfield, Francis H. Underwood, Mary J. Holmes, John Uri Lloyd, Zoe A. Norris, Mary R. S. Andrews, George Madden Martin, John Fox, jr., George Lee Burton, George Horace Lorimer, Alice Hegan Rice, Irvin S. Cobb, and James Lane Allen. Henry Watterson, of course, is the conceded dean of Kentuckian and Southern journalism, and Oliver Tilford Dargan, in dramatic work, is a name not to be slighted.

Mr. Townsend's informational work is safer than his critical conclusions. He greatly over-praises O'Hara's "The Bivouac of the Dead". He characterizes Langdon Smith's "Evolution" as "one of the cleverest, smartest things done by a nineteenth century American poet". In the reviewer's opinion, it is precisely "smartness" that has made and is making against sincerity and power in American literature. And again, he declares James Lane Allen "the foremost living American master of English prose"—at the best a too facile judgment. Nevertheless, Mr. Townsend's comments, if often superlative and uncritical, are at times humanly apt and striking.

The work, as a whole, although not systematically arranged, is not only a satisfactory compilation for students of literary effort and achievement in Kentucky, but is also a useful contribution to the history

of letters in America. The preface deals briefly with the interest shown in Kentucky by outside writers, and with the history of Kentucky magazines. Mr. Allen's "solvent principle" for the writing of an adequate history of American literature, as expressed in the introduction, is provocatively interesting.

GEORGE HERBERT CLARKE.

*Gabriel Richard, Sulpicien, Curé, et Second Fondateur de la Ville de Détroit. La Mémoire du P. Rasle Vengée.* Par N.-E. DIONNE, LL.D., M.S.R.C., Professeur d'Archéologie Canadienne à l'Université Laval. [Galerie Historique, VI.] (Quebec: Laflamme et Proulx. 1911. Pp. xv, 191.)

"CE modeste livre", as the author calls it, is here judged by the requirements of the series in which it forms volume six—a series aiming to give, in simple manner, only essential facts for general readers.

This number deals with the life, character, and service of two early missionaries, Gabriel Richard and Sébastien Rasle. The learned author's grasp has enabled him to put compactly into clear and interesting narrative a large amount of information not elsewhere easily accessible to the general public. The presentation is not always dispassionate. The author has a deeply sympathetic appreciation of the courage and devotion with which these men met overwhelming difficulties. The general point of view is reflected in the phrase with which the author turns to narrate the life of Sébastien Rasle, "oubliant pour le quart-d'heure notre origine française et notre titre de catholique" (p. 134); and the general tone, in the closing words on Gabriel Richard, "Honneur et gloire à cet homme de bien!" (p. 108).

About three-fourths of the book is given to Richard. A brief introduction outlines the founding of the Sulpitian seminary at Baltimore (1791-1792) and the advent of Richard as one of its first teachers. In nine short chapters is traced the career of Richard from the beginning of his work among the missions of the Illinois country in 1792 to his death at Detroit in 1832. He was stationed at Detroit in 1798, and his life from that time is shown to have been intimately connected with every vital phase of Michigan's growth towards statehood.

The original material used for this sketch is mainly the parish records of Ste. Anne's (manuscript in the Burton library, Detroit) and Richard's correspondence, particularly with Bishops Carroll, Fenwick, and Flaget. Characteristic of the sketch is the textual reproduction of frequent and long quotations from this correspondence, which is drawn largely from Shea's *Life and Times of Archbishop Carroll*. Use is made of the contemporary Detroit newspapers and of the usual government publications (1823-1825) which bear on Richard's political activities. The *Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections* are freely used and references are made to the writings of Campbell, Cooley, and Farmer on the history of Detroit and Michigan.